

Please amend the Application as follows.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following.

**--METHOD FOR PRODUCING COMPACTED FREE-FLOWING
RAW MATERIALS FOR VARNISH**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for producing compacted free-flowing nitrocellulose based lacquer raw materials is described. The process involves pressing a nitrocellulose based lacquer feed material, which is moistened with alcohol or water, through the holes of a die. The pressing step may be performed by means of at least one circulating breaker. The process optionally comprises shearing off the compacted lacquer raw material into pieces of selected length, below the die. The compacted nitrocellulose based lacquer raw materials prepared by the process of the present invention are free flowing and have a moisture content of at least 25 %.--

A separate abstract page is included herewith.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the title at line 1, page 1 of the specification with the following.

**--METHOD FOR PRODUCING COMPACTED FREE-FLOWING RAW MATERIALS
FOR VARNISH--**

Please insert the following between lines 1 and 3 on page 1 of the specification.

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

The present patent application claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 and 35 U.S.C. 365 of International Application No. PCT/EP00/01481, filed 23 February 2000, which was published in German as International Patent Publication No. WO 00/52058 on 8 September 2000, which is entitled to the right of priority of German Patent Application No. 199 09 230.3, filed 3 March 1999.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following at line 6 on page 1 of the specification.

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

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Please insert the following at line 26 on page 2 of the specification.

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please replace the paragraph at lines 1-8 on page 3 of the specification with the following.

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--It has now surprisingly been found that compacted nitrocellulose can also be obtained by causing the circulating breakers (or oscillating wheels) in a breaker mill, which breakers travel on a die (plate) which is provided with holes, to press the moistened nitrocellulose through the holes (e.g. bores) in the die (see Figure 1). The nitrocellulose lacquer raw material is thereby compacted. Underneath the die there is a shearing-off apparatus by means of which the granule-like preforms are brought to the desired length. The cross-sectional shape of the preforms is determined by the shape of the hole cross-section.--

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Please insert the following between lines 8 and 10 on page 3 of the specification.

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

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Fig. 1 is a schematic representation of a breaker mill that may be used in the process of the present invention. The reference characters of Figure 1 are summarized as follows: (1) represents the drive shaft; (2) represents a breaker; (3) represents the die with holes; (4) represents the shearing-off apparatus; (5) represents the housing; d represents the bore diameter; l represents the bore length; D_K represents the breaker diameter; B represents the breaker width; and D_M represents the die diameter.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--